

Claims

1. A sliding pivot means for a support element which is used with a stanchion which is hinged to the item with which it is used and from which it can be unfolded, in which one end of the support element is rigidly attached to the stanchion and the opposite end is provided with a substantially transverse portion extending therefrom, comprises a slide, a sleeve provided with a slide pin extending in substantially the same plane as the sleeve, and a socket substantially parallel with said transverse portion, and in which the sleeve is located on the transverse portion, and the pin is located in the slide, the sleeve being adapted to rotate about the transverse portion, and the pin to rotate in the slide, the pin moving along the slide when the stanchion is rotated about its hinge, and the socket being adapted to receive the transverse portion when the stanchion is in a fully unfolded position.

2. A sliding pivot means as claimed in Claim 1 in which the slide is arcuate in shape, and in which the arcuate shape is substantially parallel with the arc defined by the movement of the transverse portion when the stanchion is rotated about its hinge.

3. A sliding pivot means as claimed in Claim 2 in which the socket is provided between the item and the slide, and in which the stanchion and the support are sufficiently resilient to allow their unattached ends to be sufficiently separated to allow the transverse portion to travel around the end of the slide and access the socket when the pin is disposed at the end of the slide.

-7-

4. A sliding pivot means as claimed in Claim 3 in which the stanchion and the support are sufficiently resilient to hold the transverse portion in position when it is disposed in the socket.

5. A sliding pivot means as claimed in any of the preceding Claims in which the item is a table, and the stanchion is a table leg.

6. A sliding pivot means substantially as described herein and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

7. An item to which a stanchion is hinged and can be unfolded, comprising a support element and sliding pivot means, in which one end of the support element is rigidly attached to the stanchion and the opposite end is provided with a substantially transverse portion extending therefrom, and in which the sliding pivot means comprises a slide, a sleeve provided with a slide pin extending in substantially the same plane as the sleeve, and a socket substantially parallel with said transverse portion, and in which the sleeve is located on the transverse portion, and the pin is located in the slide, the sleeve being adapted to rotate about the transverse portion, and the pin to rotate in the slide, the pin moving along the slide when the stanchion is rotated about its hinge, and the socket being adapted to receive the transverse portion when the stanchion is in a fully unfolded position.

8. A table to which a leg is hinged and can be unfolded comprising a support element and sliding pivot means, in which one end of the support element is rigidly attached to the stanchion and the opposite end is provided with a substantially transverse portion extending therefrom, and in which the sliding pivot means comprises a slide, a sleeve provided with a slide pin extending in substantially the same plane as the sleeve, and a

-8-

socket substantially parallel with said transverse portion, and in which the sleeve is located on the transverse portion, and the pin is located in the slide, the sleeve being adapted to rotate about the transverse portion, and the pin to rotate in the slide, the pin moving along the slide when the stanchion is rotated about its hinge, and the socket being adapted to receive the transverse portion when the stanchion is in a fully unfolded position.

9. A table as claimed in Claim 8 in which four legs are hinged and can be unfolded, and in which a support element and sliding pivot means are provided for each leg.

10. A table as claimed in Claim 9 in which the four legs are comprised of two substantially U-shaped leg members, the interconnecting portions of which are hinged to the underside of the table.

11. A table as claimed in Claim 10 in which the four support elements are comprised of two substantially U-shaped support members, the interconnecting portions of which comprise the transverse portions, and in which the support members are substantially the same shape and size as the U-shaped leg members, and in which the leg members and support members are rigidly connected at their two outer ends.

12. A table substantially as described herein.